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REMARKS

In order to promote administrative efficiency and better communication, the Examiner is invited to make suggestions at any time during the proceedings, via phone, fax or e-mail, whenever such suggestions are within the Examiner's discretion as an aid to placing the claims in order for allowance in a timely manner.

In the Abstract:

The Examiner objected to the abstract for being too long. Applicant has amended the abstract to reduce the number of words. A replacement abstract is attached.

Claim Rejections: 102(b) Rejection based on Salzer:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Salzer (US Publication No 2002/0099380). Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 to overcome this rejection. Claims one and six more clearly recite structural limitations which are not found in Salzer. In particular, the below table is offered to show the structural differences between claims 1 and 6 as amended and Salzer:

STRUCTURE IN CLAIMS 1 and 6	PRESENT IN SALZER?
at least two <u>elongated</u> housing members	No
one of the ends [of the housing members] is retained <u>to hold parallel adjacent surface portions of the two elongated housing members</u> in a drive-train-	No

enclosing relationship by a capture mechanism	
STRUCTURE IN CLAIM 1 ONLY	PRESENT IN SALYER?
the elongated housing members being separable from one another along the parallel adjacent surface portions	No

It is believed therefore that claims 1 and 6 are defined so as to be patentably distinct from the Salyer prior art and that the differences constitute structural limitations in the claims. Consequently, it is believed that claims 1 and 6 as well as all claims dependent therefrom are also patentable. Acknowledgment of this fact is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections: §103, based on Salyer in view of Lewis:

The Examiner rejected claims 13-16 and 20-23 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salyer in view of Lewis. Applicant has already amended claims 1 and 6 so as to define over Salyer. These independent claims are therefore patentable and as such, it is believed that the all claims, including claims 13-16 and 20-23, which are dependent therefrom, also define patentable inventions. Acknowledgment of this fact is respectfully requested.

The Examiner further rejects claims 5 and 9 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salyer, in view of what the Examiner considers to be an obvious design choice. At this point, Applicant asserts that claims 5 and 9 are now patentable by virtue of their being dependent on patentable independent claims. Acknowledgment of this fact is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Applicant has made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by amending claims, and by pointing out herein with particularity how the

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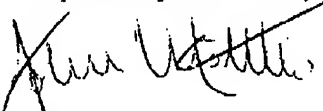
claims now presented are patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered by this amendment. Any limitations to the claims are made solely for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of the application and, unless otherwise expressly stated, are not made to narrow, vis-à-vis the prior art, the scope of protection which any subsequently issuing patent might afford. Again, if the Examiner has further questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at phone 011-4171-230-1000, fax at 011-4171-230-1001 (Switzerland is 6 hours ahead of Eastern Std Time), or e-mail at moetteli@patentinfo.net.

Applicant petitions the Commissioner for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR §1.136 for a period of 0 month and the Undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee or credit any overpayment of any fee under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 which may be required in this application to the deposit account of MOETTELI & ASSOCIES SARL, no. 50-2621.

Date: Sept 15, 2007

Enclosure:
Replacement abstract

Respectfully submitted,


John MOETTELI
U.S. Reg. No. 35,289

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